

EXPLOITING *the* VULNERABLE

Abuse of a corpse is only a misdemeanor charge.

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In a small, dark house in the heart of Louisville, Julius Harris sat — holding the responsibility of caring for his elderly mother. Addicted to crack cocaine and mired in greed, Harris left his mother alone in the back room while he stole her social security checks, cashing them to feed his habit. Other family members, beginning to wonder if something was wrong, probed Harris with questions about his mother. He always had a story, an excuse, a reason why she was unavailable. Soon, the stories his drug-addicted brain began to spin made less and less sense. He'd say his mother was

off traveling with friends, though her family members knew she had been bedridden for quite a while. Finally, in an act of desperation, the police were called to Harris' house to check on his aging mother. When officers arrived on the blustery November afternoon to the home, Harris flung open the door with a gun pointed at his own head, and slammed the door again just as quickly. Immediately SWAT and hostage negotiation teams were called out and the whole area was cordoned off with police and K-9s in what became a seven-hour stand-off before Harris finally surrendered.



PHOTO BY JIM ROBERTSON